The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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The worst of men is he who does not employ his talents for the good of others.

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OPIATES USED INSTEAD OF BLUDGEON

It is interesting to note how anti-union employers adopt new tactics as organized labor develops public opinion.

The history of these employers' war against unionism is a series of adjustments in an effort to control workers. The latest change is to abandon the bludgeon method of attack and depend on opiates.

It seems but yesterday that this type of employer "refused to be dictated to" when employes asked that he bargain with them collectively. He made no attempt to conceal his opposition and labor exposed this unsocial position.

He changed to the "open" shop. Under this system, he said, there would be no difference between organized and unorganized. He asked no questions. He was not interested in unionism, he said.

But, strange to note, active trade unionists could not retain employment. When they assumed rights this employer so loudly acknowledged they possess, they were quietly dropped and their names were found on blacklist records of "open" shop organizations.

This method was more refined than bludgeon tactics, but they served the employers' purpose.

The workers continued their agitation for a voice in working conditions. Their unions grew in power and influence and their living standards increased.

Now the anti-union employer has again been forced to change front. A new public opinion has compelled him to outwardly yield. So he professes to accept the principle of collective bargaining and has set up a company "union."

The change is embellished with up-to-date rhetoric on "employe representation," welfare plans, stock selling, "free" insurance and other feudalizing systems. These are supposed to satisfy the employers' "hands."

Instead of frank opposition to trade unions, the employer attempts to drug workers. He pictures his company "union" as a homey little affair.

The story is told by the employer's publicity staff. It is a charming tale. It reveals the company "union" as permitting representatives of both sides to "look eye to eye" across the conference table.

But the story is never complete. The public is not told how workers are restricted to untrained negotiators, and how the workers' representatives are selected under the watchful eye of foremen, straw bosses and company men.

Neither does the story tell of skilled pleaders and accountants who may present the employer's case, but not so the workers. They are represented by and in the manner the employer dictates. In short, this compliance with the form of trade unionism permits the employer to have the same control as in the bludgeon days.

Trade unionists must continue their agitation for the right to bargain collectively. They must continue to expose the company "union" hypocrisy, as they did the immorality and illegality of former positions that were just as stoutly defended by the employer.

They must show that the company "union" is an opiate; that its members have no more rights as free men than under the avowed anti-union shop system.

The company "union will survive only as long as organized labor fails to expose this deceit. It can not stand against an education that is based on fundamentals.

PASSAIC STRIKERS JOIN TRADE UNION

Passaic, N. J., Sept. 4.—The United Textile Workers of America has issued a charter to the striking textile workers of this city and vicinity. The charter will be officially presented by President McMahon of the international union at a mass meeting.

The employers' stubbornness has awakened interest in the suggested investigation by congress of the textile tariff schedule. President McMahon has repeatedly shown how these employers gouge the people and exploit workers through special privileges accorded them by the tariff act.

It is proposed to organize a committee of 100 citizens to promote a congressional investigation of this industry when congress convenes next December. The probe will include wage scales.

Henry T. Hunt, vice chairman of a citizens' committee that is aiding the strikers, said:

"I would advise the textile barons to put their house in order before this investigation, as they are in no position to go before the public now." He said that the 74 per cent tariff imposed on imported textile goods, together with the low wage scale, enables American textile manufacturers to make a 100 per cent profit.

BRITISH MINERS ARE STARVING A. F. OF L. ISSUES URGENT PLEA

Washington, Sept. 4.—The A. F. of L. executive council has issued another appeal for financial aid for British locked-out miners.

The council has been impelled to take this action by new stories of suffering by these workers and their families, who are determined in their stand against starvation conditions.

Hunger is general in the mine areas. For more than four months 1,256,000 workers have been idle and the lockout has caused industrial prostration throughout Great Britain, thereby hampering aid that other workers could give.

The executive council assures the trade union movement that the suffering is unbelievable among women, children and the aged dependents of miners.

A. F. of L. Secretary Frank Morrison is treasurer of the relief fund.

"PATCHED-UP" PEACE REJECTED BY STRIKING GARMENT WORKERS

New York, Sept. 4.—Because it means a "patched-up peace," the 40,000 striking garment workers rejected Governor Smith's plan that these workers refer differences to a committee of three.

Jobbers control 75 per cent of the industry, but are not included in the arbitration committee. They hawk contracts to submanufacturers and competition of the latter has practically reinstated sweatshop conditions.

In their letter to the governor, officers of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union ask that he try to bring about conferences between the workers and the different types of employers in the industry. This would include the jobbers. A return to work under the proposed arbitration, they say, would "serve no useful purpose and only perpetuate misery, strife and discontent in the industry."

"We are very grateful to you for the keen interest in our members who are struggling to secure living conditions. Our union, throughout the 25 years of its existence, has given ample and consistent proof of its general disposition to settle any difference with employers by conciliatory methods and with the aid of voluntary and impartial outside tribunals. We would welcome arbitration at this time if we had any hope that the particular difficulties which confront our industry could be solved by that process."

Governor Smith has acted on the workers' suggestion and is now attempting to bring both sides together. Two years ago he appointed a commission to investigate this industry. Sweeping recommendations were made, but these were ignored by the jobbers.

BOSTON STRIKE MAY END

Boston, Sept. 4.—Workers in the raincoat industry have reached a partial agreement with employers. Pay for holidays is the one remaining difference. The workers are granted a 42-hour work week of five days and a $46 minimum.

DEATH OF 100,000 BABES TRACED TO LOW WAGES

Washington, Sept. 4.—Poverty is an important factor in the annual deaths of 100,000 infants in this country under one year of age, said Dr. Robert Morse Woodbury in a report issued by the United States Children's Bureau.

The annual maternal mortality rate of 20,000, Dr. Woodbury states, is largely caused by infection due to lack of surgical cleanliness.

"As with infant mortality also, poverty is found to be an important factor in maternal death rates, these increasing as the husband's earnings fall, probably because lack of proper facilities and adequate care for the poor mother.

"Maternal mortality are higher in the cities than in the rural districts. These mortality rates, said Dr. Woodbury, are among the highest in the civilized world and are but slightly lower than in the beginning of the present century.

Among the countries having rates less than half that of the United States are Denmark, Finland, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Uruguay.

Canadian Senate Is Workers' Foe; Unionists Urge Curb Of Its Power

Ottawa, Ontario, Sept. 4.—In calling attention to the importance of the general election, on September 14, officers of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada urge workers to reduce the powers of the autocratic Dominion Senate.

"Whatever success is achieved in the House of Commons is futile so long as this barrier exists," the unionists say. "The Senate is a non-elective body and appointments thereto are usually made as a reward for political services to supporters of each of the old political parties and most of its members are indifferent and unresponsive to public opinion.

"It became necessary for the electors of Great Britain to curtail the powers of the House of Lords so that measures that have passed three successive sessions of the House of Commons would become law, irrespective of the non-elective chamber. This is the minimum reform that must be secured if progress is to be made possible in Canada.

"Organized labor has recorded itself year after year as opposed to the continued maintenance of the second chamber, believing that the country would be effectively and more economically governed by a single elected chamber, directly responsible to the people in the same manner as obtains in the majority of the provinces. However, in order to meet public opinion, which does not appear to be ready for total abolition of the senate, organized labor has modified its declarations during the past few years to a demand for the abolition of the senate as a non-elective body."

Other issues urged by organized labor include: Amendments to the criminal code and immigration act, the right of peaceful picketing and an old-age pension. Canadian citizens can be deported without trial by jury and the right of free speech and press is curtailed. Changes are also favored in the law which now permits Canadian citizens to be deported without trial by jury, and which restricts the right of free speech and press. On four occasions the house of commons favored changing this law, but the senate opposed.

The pension plan provides that the federal government assume one-half of the cost of pensions granted by provincial governments to workers 70 years old and who resided in Canada for 20 years or over. The workers urge this act because it recognizes the principle of state responsibility to protect aged workers.

TWO WEEKS' STRIKE ENDS

Boston, Sept. 4.—A two-weeks' strike of the Building Wreckers' Union has ended. The union is recognized and new rates range from 60 to 75 cents an hour.

LABOR BEHIND 'BILL' WILSON

Washington, Sept. 4.—The A. F. of L. executive council has instructed President Green and the A. F. of L. Non-Partisan Political Campaign Committee to assist William B. Wilson in his campaign for United States Senator from Pennsylvania.

This action is in line with the non-partisan policy of the trade union movement. The A. F. of L. committee will give wide publicity to Mr. Wilson's long and honorable record in behalf of social progress.

His services as secretary-treasurer of the United Mine Workers of America, and later as the first Secretary of Labor in the president's cabinet have equipped him with a knowledge of social and economic conditions that few possess.

Reports from Pennsylvania indicate that while he is running on the minority party ticket, his chances for success are bright because of his well-known courage, ability and honesty. Another factor that will aid him are the primary scandals in that state and the general trend of voters toward political independence.

PEACE PARLEY FAILS TO END COAL DISPUTE

London, England, Aug. 23.—The miners have again failed to reach an understanding with the coal owners. At a meeting between representatives of both sides, the latter asked for an 8-hour day and district agreements. This would mean a complete rout for the miners after their 16 weeks' strike.

The coal owners are determined to lengthen hours and make it possible for one district to compete with another through separate agreements. The miners were locked out when they refused to accept wage reductions. They say they will discuss wage readjustments if the government will consider a reorganization of the industry. The government, the miners show, has aided the coal owners wherever possible. The present miners' law has been amended to make eight hours optional. The workers refuse to sign individual agreements and the plan has failed.

GAS AS WAR WEAPON UPHELD BY SCIENCE

Williamstown, Mass., Sept. 4.—At the Institute of Politics Prof. Norris of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology said that chemical warfare is a most powerful defensive weapon, and that if this mode of warfare disappeared it would not be by international agreement, but only because it was inefficient.

Predicting that the next war will start where the World War left off, and that mustard gas will be used from the beginning, Prof. Norris asked if the United States should stand by and let other nations have a surprise ready. He agreed with Sir James C. Irvine of Scotland that so long as chemical factories exist they can easily be converted to make poison gas, and in that sense the scrapping of ships and reduction of armies would not really mean disarmament.

Sentiment and not knowledge was the driving force behind the women's clubs and associations which attacked chemical warfare prior to the Washington disarmament conference, called by President Harding, according to Prof. Norris. Under the present structure of society, he said, war is inevitable and preparation for war necessary. Both he and Sir James C. Irvine indicated little faith in international treaties that would regulate the use of poison gas.

DON CHAFIN PAROLED; WAS ANTI-UNION AID

Washington, Sept. 4.—The Department of Justice has approved the immediate parole of Don Chafin, coal operators' gun man and former sheriff of Logan County, W. Va. He was convicted in 1924 for violation of the prohibition act. He was sheriff of Logan county at the time and while attempting to smash the Miners' union, he engaged as a side line in the manufacture and distribution of "moonshine." He was sentenced to two years in the federal prison at Atlanta and fined $10,000.

He was eligible for parole last June, but the Department of Justice declined to act, it is stated, because another indictment against him was pending in West Virginia. After this indictment was quashed, the parole was issued. Release was recommended by the Federal Parole Board.

While sheriff of Logan county Chafin maintained a reign of terror against organized miners. He was aided by coal operators' gun men, whom he deputized.

With complete control of the machinery of that section of West Virginia, he branched out into the manufacture of hootch, when he ran afoul of Uncle Sam.

Gas and Vapor Endanger Life; These Are Every-Day Hazards

Washington, Sept. 4.—Gas hazards are encountered by everyone, says the United States Bureau of Mines in a warning on the danger from asphyxiation, by fire or explosion due to one or more of the combustible gases used for the production of light, heat and power. With the coming of the winter months, this warning is timely.

Any combustible gas or vapor, when mixed with air or an oxygen within certain limited proportions, will explode on ignition, it is stated.

Automobile exhaust gas contains 3 to 12 per cent of carbon monoxide. Pure carbon monoxide is colorless, tasteless and odorless. It has practically the same weight as air. Like the copperhead, it strikes its victim without warning. Even well-designed heaters are dangerous when improperly used.

"If gas heaters must be operated without flue connection, windows should always be left open to ventilate the room," the report states. "All gas heaters and stove connections should be solidly piped. Rubber tube connections are a fertile source of danger. The public generally does not appreciate the danger from gas leaks. Many disastrous explosions in basements of buildings that are attributed to black-hand bombs or other mysterious explosions are found, on investigation, to be caused by gas accumulations from leaks or burners that have been extinguished by drafts.

"Coal gas is more easily ignited and tends to form explosive mixtures more easily than natural gas because of its high hydrogen and carbon monoxide content. Both have a much broader range of possible explosive mixtures when mixed with air, and have higher rates of flame propagation.

"Workmen around blast furnaces, gas producers and other gas-manufacturing equipment should never enter tanks, tunnels or other enclosed or semi-enclosed spaces which may contain gas without respiratory protection unless the absence of gas has been definitely shown by suitable tests.

"Carbon monoxide is also the poisonous constituent of automobile gas, the average content being 6 to 7 per cent. It is suicidal to run an automobile engine in a closed private garage for 10 minutes."

ALLEN IS REBUFFED; CLASSED AS TRAITOR

Wamego, Kan., Sept. 4.—In an address to farmers at this place, Colonel Smith W. Brookhart, candidate for the United States senate, classed former Governor Allen as a traitor to his community.

Governor Allen was in the public eye several years ago because of his anti-strike law, which was intended to settle the capitalist-labor dispute. The governor believed his statesmanship entitled him to be nominated for vice president in 1920. He is now attempting to solve the acute agricultural problem and in a recent speech said that the troubles of Iowa farmers can be traced to "speculation in a busted real estate boom for which there is no legislative remedy."

"There was not 7 per cent of the Iowa land ever sold in speculation," said Colonel Brookhart. "In 1920, at the top of the boom, the census value of Iowa land was only $227 an acre on an average for the whole state. This was the highest any one ever used for figuring cost of production. The census of 1925 reduced the price to $149 an acre and cost of production is being figured by the farmers upon that basis now.

"This same wise oracle also says there is no legislative remedy for a bursted boom. However, he without doubt supported the transportation act which has put $19,000,000,000 of value into the railroads when the market value was $12,000,000,000, and gave them a return of 5¾ per cent upon all this value, which amounted to more than 9 per cent upon their honest value."

ENGLISH RELIEF LAWS HANDLED BY REACTION

London, England, Aug. 23.—The government's aid to the coal owners' attempt to lower wages and reduce hours is illustrated by the hasty amendment to the boards of guardians (default) act.

For centuries these boards have handled poor relief in the various communities. The money is raised through the ordinary taxing process. The government's amendment to the law permits the conservative minister of health (Neville Chamberlain) to take over the board's functions in labor-controlled localities.

Chamberlain lives in Birmingham, an industrial city. Opposition to him is so pronounced that he will stand for re-election, it is stated, in another constituency—Edgbaston—which is safely conservative.

Poor law relief was given to 2,338,100 persons on June 26, 1926. This is an increase from 1,047,280 in November 1, 1924. Poor relief is apart from unemployment insurance (the dole), which employers and employed contribute three-fourths and the government contributes one-fourth. Persons on strike are not eligible for this insurance, but their dependents may be voted poor relief in case of absolute necessity.

This relief is now taken out of the hands of the local authorities, and will be distributed by the Tory government, who have discarded an ancient home rule practice in their eagerness to aid the coal owners.

LOGGERS' LOW WAGE

Washington, Sept. 4.—In a summary of wages and hours of labor in the lumber industry last year, the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics shows that the average full-time earnings per week were $20.74. The average full time hours per week were 58.1.

The information compiled covers 61,193 wage earners (including 38 females) employed in 299 sawmills in 23 states and 9,133 wage earners in 72 logging camps in 10 of the same states.

PAY DAY LAW UPHELD

Martinez, Cal., Sept. 4.—Superior Court Judge McKenzie has upheld the state semi-monthly pay day law. State Labor Commissioner Mathewson complained that a cement firm failed to pay its employes every two weeks. The law provides a civil penalty of $10 for each employe who has not been paid.

The United States Supreme Court upheld a similar law in 1914, when it unanimously declared that a New York pay law was constitutional.

CONCEAL PROFITS

New York, Sept. 4.—Financiers seem agreed that the railroads can hold their record profits, despite a clause in the transportation act which requires them to turn over to the government one-half of their profits in excess of 6 per cent. The purpose of this act is to create a fund for the benefit of weaker roads. This law was agreed to when the railroad managers urged the passage of the Esch-Cummins law.

The railroads can defeat this clause by a reinvestment of profits.

PRINTERS RAISE WAGES

Chicago, Sept. 4.—An immediate increase of $3 a week for members employed on local newspapers has been secured by Typographical Union No. 16. An additional dollar will be added the second year, and beginning the third year the total increase will be $5 a year, or $63 a week for day work and $68 for night work. The contract dates back to May 22, when the old contract expired.

LEATHER WORKERS GAIN

Chicago, Sept. 4.—The Atlas Leather Goods Company has signed a union-shop agreement with Leather Workers' Union No. 12.

The leather workers' gain is significant, in that it is their first agreement since the lockout in this industry six years ago.

U. S. VESSEL OWNERS ARE BEHIND TIMES

Washington, Sept. 4.—There appears to be a rift in the claim that "high" wages of seamen is the reason American vessel owners can not compete with other nations.

Admiral W. S. Benson, member of the United States Shipping Board, does not accept this theory, which is urged in season and out of season by those who profess to know what they are talking about.

The seamen have repeatedly pointed out that their wages is a small item in ship operation, but this is ignored by the wise men.

Admiral Benson is now quoted as saying that American shippers are behind the times, and that if they would compete with European shipping they must discard the steam engine and install up-to-date Diesel motor engines. Motor power saves one-third on fuel and permits more cargo space by eliminating boilers.

The maritime interests of Germany, Great Britain, Norway, Sweden and Italy have ordered whole fleets of vessels with Diesel engines.

To encourage the installation of this engine in American ships, Admiral Benson explains that shipping board vessels are being sold to private owners that they can equip the ships with motors without cost to themselves. Some of these ships have been practically given to private owners at a cost of from $5 to $15 a ton.

"Unless American shipping adopts up-to-date engines, it may as well go out of business," said the naval officer.

166 MINERS KILLED

Washington, Sept. 4.—Coal mine fatalities in July resulted in the death of 166 workers, according to the United States Bureau of Mines. This is a loss of 1,315 lives for the year. Of this number 1,089 were at bituminous mines and 226 were at anthracite mines. For every million tons the fatality rate was 3.50 for bituminous and 5.06 for anthracite mines.

STEEL'S BIG SURPLUS IS MOUNTAIN HIGH

New York, Sept. 4.—When steel trust employes unite, their strongest argument for wage increases is that corporation's surplus. In the last 11 years this profit totals more than $978,000,000, after all charges have been met. Less than one-half of this amount has been paid to stockholders. These figures do not include concealed profits nor those plowed back into the business.

OPPOSE ILLEGAL STRIKES

Pressmen's Home, Tenn., Sept. 4.—Opposition to illegal strikes was recorded by the International Printing Pressmen's and Assistants' Union at the closing session of its biennial convention. The observance of contracts was urged.

"The 44-hour work week," the convention declared, "is generally operative in America, because it is a fair work week. It has taken time and patience to arouse public opinion to the point of favoring the half holiday on Saturday."

NO PAY FOR RECESS JOBS

Washington, Sept. 4.—Controller General McCarl has ruled that the president's recess appointees can not be paid a salary. It is customary for the executive to continue an appointee in office when the senate fails to confirm. This was done in the case of E. B. Brossard and Sherman J. Lowell, members of the Federal Tariff Commission.

FASCISTI RESTRICTS SUFFRAGE IN ITALY

Rome, Italy, Sept. 4.—The election of municipal officials in Italy has been swept aside by the Fascisti government. The decree provides that local affairs of these citizens shall be handled by an appointee of the central government. Cities and towns may have councils, or "consulta," but their powers are advisory.

The change is an enlargement of the Podesta decree, issued last February, and which was intended to create a precedent.

In line with its opposition to democracy, the government now announces that "popular suffrage has outlived its day and that the elective system should be replaced by one which responds more readily to modern conditions."

AID CO-OP. INSURANCE

Washington, Sept. 4.—The Sheet Metal Workers' International Association has subscribed for $10,000 worth of Union Labor Life Insurance Company stock and paid cash for the full amount. The sheet metal workers' convention ordered this action, following an address by Martin F. Ryan, director in the insurance company, A. F. of L. vice president and president of the Brotherhood Railway Carmen.

A feature of the stock subscription are contributions from the Barbers' union in San Juan, Porto Rico, and the Plumbers' union in Honolulu.

WANT HOUR LAW ENFORCED

Niagara Falls, N. Y., Sept. 4.—The annual convention of the New York State Federation of Labor unanimously called for the rigid enforcement of the eight-hour law, and the prevailing wage rate law. The state commission that is now surveying industrial conditions was asked to look into the profits of industrial and commercial concerns.

FURRIERS REDUCE HOURS

Chicago, Sept. 4.—After a six weeks' strike, Fur Workers' Union No. 45 has reduced the work week to 40 hours from January to August 15. For the rest of the year 44 hours will be the rule. Wages are advanced $3.50 and $4 a week.

BAKERIES DECREASE; TRUSTS ARE LIMITED

New York, Sept. 4.—Consolidations during the period 1914-23 have reduced the number of bakeries in this country from 25,962 to 18,739. During that period the value of bakery products increased from $491,893,000 to $1,122,834,000.

There is a limit to these combinations, according to the New York Trust Company.

"Capital requirements for the individual plant are so small," the house organ of this financial corporation states, "that new combination is easy and the consolidations have not eliminated and probably can not eliminate the small baker. Many of these latter make sufficient profit on sweet goods to warrant their selling bread at a lower price, and thus offer competition to the larger organizations.

"Mass distribution has been similarly difficult, since bread is a perishable product which must be distributed quickly to the retailer. Bread must be sold as it is produced; it can not be stored or shipped any long distance. As a result, most of the 18,739 bakeries in the United States operate as separate, independent units, the larger companies including only a very small percentage of the total number of establishments."

BRICKLAYERS DON'T SHIRK

New York, Sept. 4.—Organized bricklayers have protested to the State Industrial Survey Commission against the charge that they lay half as many bricks for $14 a day as when they received $5 a day.

The statement was made by Christian G. Norman, of the Building Trades Employers' Association.

The bricklayers point to angles in modern walls that were not the rule in former buildings. Many buildings, they say, are veneered with brick on the outside and this brick is harder to lay than inside brick. The bricklayers characterized Mr. Norman as a "chief propagandist" and invite any interested parties to view their work.

LOW WAGE JAPANESE AIDED BY COURT RULE

Portland, Ore., Sept. 4.—A committee of the Central Labor Council reports that Federal Judge Wolverton's rulings in the so-called Jap conspiracy case at Toledo, this state, menace organized labor and should be appealed. The court gave the widest interpretation to conspiracy, and included two persons who would induce another to leave his employment, even though that person signed a contract without understanding conditions.

The case was based on the Pacific Spruce Corporation's employment of Japanese at its Toledo mills. Citizens induced them to leave and one of the Japs sued for damages in the federal district court. He was represented by the corporation's attorneys and he secured an award of $2,500.

Judge Wolverton told the jury that any persuasion that resulted in the Japs leaving was an effort to induce them to violate their contract.

"The instructions also appear to hold that two or more persons engaged in such persuasion is a conspiracy as defined by law and is therefore illegal," the trade union committee said.

The corporation had promised that no Japs would be employed. Toledo citizens are united against making their community an Oriental colony, with resultant lowering of living standards.

EDUCATORS TO MEET

Washington, Sept. 4.—Secretary of the Interior Work has designated the week of April 11-16, 1927, as the date for the Pan-Pacific Conference on Education, Rehabilitation, Reclamation and Recreation, to be held at Honolulu.

Congress authorized the calling of this conference. Nations bordering on the Pacific Ocean or having territorial interests in the Pacific, including colonial governments, will be represented.